

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 6, 7, 14 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, claims 1, 4, 8 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,424,691 ("Sadinsky"). Furthermore, 2, 5, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sadinsky, or over Sadinsky in view of U.S. Patent Number 3,569,795 ("Gikow") and/or U.S. Patent Number 6,628,502 ("Masumiya et al.").

In response, Applicant has rewritten the "objected to" claim 6 in independent form by amending the independent claim 1 to include the limitations of the dependent claim 6 and the intervening claim 4. As a result, the dependent claims 4 and 6 have been canceled. Furthermore, the dependent claims 5 and 7 have been amended to maintain proper dependence. Applicant has similarly rewritten the "objected to" claims 14 and 20 in independent form by amending the independent claim 8 to include the limitations of the dependent claim 14 and the intervening claims 12 and 13, and by amending the independent claim 15 to include the limitations of the dependent claim 20 and the intervening claim 19. As a result, claims 12-14, 19 and 20 have been canceled. In view of the claim amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 11, 15, 16 and 18 are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 27, 2006

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